



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007/08

7 March 2008

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2007/08 and to consider requests received.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive delegated funding to allocate to local and community organisations and projects that meet specific social, economic or environmental needs within the parameters of its espoused priorities.

For 2007/08 the allocation to each County Councillor is £11,000 revenue funding. In addition each Local Committee received a further £35,000 to spend on capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area, making a total of £101,000 available to Tandridge Local Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tandridge Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive delegated funding to allocate to local and community organisations and projects that meet specific social, economic or environmental needs within the parameters of its espoused priorities.
- 1.2 At the annual budget meeting on 6 February 2007, this was set at £11,000 revenue per County Councillor plus £35,000 for capital projects. As the six Surrey County Council Members of Tandridge Local Committee have elected to pool their individual allocations, this makes a total of £101,000 for Tandridge Local Committee.
- 1.3 The County Council also delegated £100,000 capital funding to each Local Committee to support highways projects. The Local Highways Manager provides separate reports on this funding.

2 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Twenty four funding proposals have already been approved this year totalling £68,108 and a further seventeen, totalling £32,892, are currently under discussion. Members have received copies of the completed application forms for information. These are summarised below for convenience.
- 2.2 **Sally Marks East Surrey Museum £4,000**
Funding is requested towards funding for the Hidden Stories: Exploring our Past project as part of the proposals, which formed a successful Lottery Fund bid last year, whereby a Heritage Development Officer (HDO) will be appointed who will work with partner schools to research aspects of local history, using the museum's resources and others. The material will be the basis of drama productions and art projects, employing appropriate professionals. There will be travelling exhibitions based on the results, and an annual community event. The HDO will also develop resource packs for future use. In addition (s)he will curate the museum and develop it as a heritage hub, in consultation with existing local history groups. While Member funding will not support salaries, it will go towards the wider costs of the project which will benefit local residents, historians and schools.
- 2.3 **Peter Langham Thursday Lunch Club £2,000**
The lunch club has no independent funding and is run entirely by volunteers. Funding is necessary for the hire of facilities and materials. It is a cost effective way to provide a safe place for vulnerable to meet for mutual support in a pleasant atmosphere and is unique to Caterham.

2.4 Marian Myland Showtimers £1,000

The drama group wants to install a low level electrical power sound and lighting system in Nutfield Village Hall. While this will result in significant savings to the group, who currently have to hire equipment, it will also be available to all users of the Village Hall and it can be expanded and upgraded to suit the future needs of the group and others and will enhance the village hall as a community venue for the residents of Nutfield.

2.5 David Hodge Tatsfield in Bloom £700

Tatsfield has been particularly successful with its entries into the In Bloom competitions in recent years and it has great community support. The In Bloom competitions lead to improvements to the environment which in turn leads to careful upkeep by the local residents and volunteers making the village attractive to visitors and stimulating the local economy. Competing Villages fundraise widely in their communities and make excellent use of their resources. The benefits are not only to the local area but to Tandridge as a whole.

2.6 Peter Langham Buggy Walks £800

With support from the Primary Care Trust, groups have been successfully piloted in Reigate and Banstead, and Action for Life would now like to expand into Tandridge. Post-natal depression is not uncommon among young mothers and the buggy walks are an innovative way of tackling it. The buggy walks allow young mothers to meet and share problems with their peers while ensuring that they get exercise. The regular meetings give them a purpose for getting out and meeting other people and it has proved a simple but effective solution to an intransigent problem. The benefits are to vulnerable adults with specific needs, Tandridge-wide.

2.7 Ken Rimington Haywood Society £1,000

The Haywood Society is a local history group, which meets in the Lingfield Library. They have no independent income but would like to be able to store their materials safely on the site. The Library can offer space in the loft but at present it is not safely accessible. The Trust is unlikely to open up this space in the near future for its own needs but they are happy for the user group to do this at their own expense. Member support would enable them to proceed. The benefits are not only to the group, researchers and historians, but this will also be a lasting improvement to the building, which is well used by local residents of Lingfield.

2.8 Ken Rimington Dormansland Parish Council £1,500

The Parish Council would like help with installing a noticeboard at the entrance to the recreation ground to replace an old and vandalised board as well as installing a new bench nearby in close proximity to the high street and the bus stop. This would be of benefit to local residents, particularly the elderly and infirm. Given past experience, they would

like to improve the quality of their noticeboard to make it more vandal proof and to improve the appearance of the centre of the village.

2.9 David Hodge Tatsfield Scouts £4,145

Tatsfield Scouts have had a history of break ins and vandalism and much of their limited funds has gone towards upgrading the security of their local hut, which is popular with young people in the village. The funding that was earmarked for replacing the boiler has been routed elsewhere to deal with more pressing problems and the existing boiler is now in very poor condition and is inefficient. Without proper heating the building would not be usable in the winter months so this has become a priority for them and Member support would allow them to purchase and install a new system that would enhance and extend the life of the building. The benefits would be to young people in the local area who can engage in supervised activities with positive role models.

2.10 David Hodge Tatsfield W.I £620

Tatsfield WI has raised more than half the funding it needs to redecorate their local hall. However, their fund raising tends to be in small amounts which is delaying the start of their plans to redecorate the hall to make it more attractive to members and the wider community who access it. They are therefore asking the Local Committee to meet the shortfall so that they can begin the work. The WI is a voluntary organisation which is very active in the community but has no independent source of income and would therefore welcome member support.

2.11 Peter Langham Soper Appeal £1,000

The Local Committee has been asked to help fund the restoration of William Garland Soper's grave in Caterham. He is well known as the father of modern Caterham who died 100 years ago this year. Unfortunately the grave, along with others in St Mary's cemetery was vandalised about five years ago. It would be an appropriate time to restore it for the benefit of the local community and as a mark of respect. Members' contributions would enable the work to be carried out. Further information on W G Soper and Caterham is available from the local history society.

2.12 Sally Marks Whyteleafe Primary School £1,700

Whyteleafe School was recently the subject of an arson attack which destroyed the shed where the outdoor play equipment was housed and scorched the walls of the school building. The school is insured and as soon as a claim has been settled the shed will be replaced with a more robust, possibly metal structure. It is most unlikely that this will extend to the loss of the toys, which are a great loss to the younger children in the school. Member funding would allow replacement toys to be purchased quickly so that children will be able to play outdoors again as the weather improves.

2.13 Marian Myland Bletchingley in Bloom £950

This is the third application for the In Bloom competition that has come to Committee for consideration and the second time that Bletchingley has applied. They entered for the first time last year and did exceptionally well in some categories. Bouyed with success they want to extend what they have done and, hopefully, to have greater success next year. There has been a very noticeable improvement in the village as a result of the efforts of volunteers last year. The competition has many benefits in drawing communities together, raising aspirations and generally engendering pride in the area. Last year work focussed on the pond and this year plans include improvements to the main thoroughfare. The benefits as previously are to the local environment and to tourism and the local economy.

2.14 Marian Myland Bletchingley Village Players £900

Bletchingley Village Players have small premises on Grange Meadow and Surrey County Council has previously helped them with problems relating to security issues and vandalism. They are in a vulnerable position and would certainly benefit from having a storage shed to house their equipment as their rehearsal area is not large. The benefits would be to a low-budget community group which donates much of its income to local charities and which entertains local residents with productions in the village hall.

2.15 Marian Myland Nutfield Memorial Hall £1,600

Nutfield Memorial Hall was recently the subject of an arson attack which razed it to the ground. It had traditionally been a focal point of the village and had a noticeboard at its entrance. While plans are proceeding for replacing the old building with a new facility more in keeping with local needs, there is an urgent need to replace the information board. It would necessarily have to be robust and relatively vandal proof and the Parish Council would prefer to install a two bay toughened glass lockable unit. The costs of purchase and installation are estimated at £1600. While the Parish Council would like to install it at their own expense, all its available funding is currently being directed towards the replacement of the building and it finds itself unable to carry out low level projects in the short term. Member funding would allow the board to be reinstated and would improve the site for the benefit of local residents and visitors to the area.

2.16 Marian Myland Nutfield Parish Council £1,250

Nutfield Parish council would also welcome support from the Local Committee in the present circumstances, with upgrading the water supply to its allotments. Income from holders is not sufficient to cover the cost although they will make a small contribution towards this. They will also be supporting an application to Tandridge District Council submitted by the Horticultural Society, which has two free plots on the site for community use. They also intend to make adjacent land available for use by young people to stimulate their interest in gardening. The allotments are also used by the wider community for

bonfire night celebrations and barbeques. While a new water system would benefit local people who rent plots, the community areas are furthest from the existing facilities and it is they who will benefit most as, at present, water has to be carried long distances by hand.

2.17 Peter Langham Local Partnerships Team £1,260

The work of the Local Committee is supported by the Local Partnerships team who, among other things, are responsible for setting up sound equipment when committee meets in village halls and other community venues. It is in the process of upgrading its equipment to improve the sound quality, particularly for the hard of hearing, at public meetings. However, funding is limited and Committee is asked to help by funding upgraded speakers, which will be cordless, and therefore, less of a health and safety hazard to attendees. The benefit is to all residents of Tandridge, as well as officers and partners, who attend meetings.

2.18 Peter Langham Taxi Vouchers £8,337

Committee is asked to consider using the balance of the funding which, if all other bids are successful, currently stands at a little over £8,000, from this year's budget to pay for additional taxi vouchers for local residents. There is always a waiting list for this very popular scheme but numbers are limited by available funding and any contribution from the Local Committee will be fully committed. Taxi vouchers can be used by the elderly and vulnerable to make trips which might otherwise be out of their reach financially or due to the limitations of public transport. The benefits are to the most vulnerable members of the community Tandridge-wide.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, any or none of the proposals under discussion.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Consultation may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving funding, the local Member or the Local Partnerships Team as required, depending on the nature of the project, and further details are available on request.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2007/08 is £66,000. £68,108 has already been allocated (as at Annex A). If all the current bids, totalling £32,892 are agreed this will fully commit the funding for 2007/08. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs are shown in Annex A.]

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Local Committee funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, Tandridge and places no further restrictions on who may apply. The success of a bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the locally agreed criteria, which are flexible and cover a wide-ranging and diverse variety of projects. The local priorities specifically identify vulnerable adults, and Member funding continues to support projects which benefit disadvantaged local people.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Local Committee funding can also be allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money within the agreed Financial Framework.
- 8.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2007/08 Local Committee delegated budgets as detailed in the report.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member. As funding for Tandridge Local Committee is pooled, Members are requested to consider them as a group and to decide on whether or not to approve them.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 10.2 Any changes to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Member and the Chairman and, if the changes are considered to be significant, an amended bid will be brought back to Committee for approval.
- 10.3 In all other circumstances the Local Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.

- 10.4 Within three months of receipt, all successful applicants will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.
- 10.5 Except in exceptional circumstances, and at the Chairman's discretion, any proposals for consideration at the next formal Local Committee should reach the Local Committee and Partnership Officer no later than 9th May 2008.
- 10.6 It is currently anticipated that the budget for 2008/09 will remain the same as this year and provisional expressions of interest currently total £18,000. Members are asked to forward any further bids to the Local Partnerships team by Friday 2 May 2008 to ensure inclusion in the papers.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Funding Bids